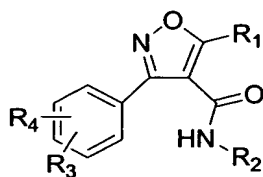


What is claimed is

1. A compound according to formula (I),



(I),

or a therapeutically suitable salt or prodrug thereof, wherein

R₁ is a member selected from the group consisting of alkoxyalkyl, alkyl, alkylC(O)NHalkyl, alkylS(O)₂NHalkyl, alkenyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heterocycle, heterocyclealkyl, hydroxyalkyl, R_aR_bN-, R_aR_bNalkyl, and R_aR_bNcarboxyalkyl, wherein the alkyl group of said arylalkyl and the alkyl group of said heterocyclealkyl may be substituted with 0, 1 or 2 groups that are a member selected from the group consisting of halogen and hydroxy;

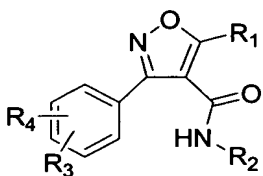
R₂ is a member selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkenyl, cycloalkenylalkyl, heterocycle and heterocyclealkyl;

R₃ and R₄ are each members independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, aryl, halogen, haloalkyl, cycloalkyl, cyano and nitro;

R_a and R_b are each members independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkoxyalkyl, alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylsulfonyl, aryloxyalkyl and R_cR_dNcarboxyalkylcarbonyl; and

R_c and R_d are each independently a member selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, and alkyl.

2. A compound according to formula (Ia),



(Ia),

or a therapeutically suitable salt or prodrug thereof, wherein

R₁ is a member selected from the group consisting of aryl, arylalkyl, heterocycle, and heterocyclealkyl, wherein the alkyl group of said arylalkyl and the alkyl group of said heterocyclealkyl may be substituted with 0, 1 or 2 groups that are each members independently selected from the group consisting of halogen and hydroxy;

R₂ is a member selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkenyl, cycloalkenylalkyl, heterocycle and heterocyclealkyl;

R₃ and R₄ are each members independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, aryl, halogen, haloalkyl, cycloalkyl, cyano and nitro.

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3. The compound according to claim 2, wherein

R₂ is a member selected from the group consisting of aryl, arylalkyl, heterocycle and heterocyclealkyl; and

10 R₃ and R₄ are each members independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, halogen and nitro.

4. The compound according to claim 3 that is selected from the group consisting of 3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-N-[4-(diethylamino)phenyl]-5-(2-furyl)isoxazole-4-carboxamide;

15 3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-N-[4-(diethylamino)phenyl]-5-(2-phenylethyl)isoxazole-4-carboxamide;

3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-N-[4-(diethylamino)phenyl]-5-[2-(1,3-dioxan-2-yl)ethyl]isoxazole-4-carboxamide;

20 3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-N-[4-(diethylamino)phenyl]-5-[3-(1,3-dioxan-2-yl)propyl]isoxazole-4-carboxamide;

3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-N-[4-(diethylamino)phenyl]-5-(2-hydroxy-2-phenylethyl)isoxazole-4-carboxamide;

3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-N-[4-(diethylamino)phenyl]-5-(2-tetrahydro-2H-pyran-2-ylethyl)isoxazole-4-carboxamide;

25 3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-N-[4-(diethylamino)phenyl]-5-(tetrahydro-2H-pyran-4-ylmethyl)isoxazole-4-carboxamide;

3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-5-[2-(1,3-dioxan-2-yl)ethyl]-N-{2-[(2-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolin-1-yl)methyl]phenyl}isoxazole-4-carboxamide;

30 3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-N-[4-(diethylamino)phenyl]-5-[(2-oxopyrrolidin-1-yl)methyl]isoxazole-4-carboxamide;

3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-N-[4-(diethylamino)phenyl]-5-[2-(2-oxopyrrolidin-1-yl)ethyl]isoxazole-4-carboxamide;

3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-N-[4-(diethylamino)phenyl]-5-[2-(3-methyl-2-oxoimidazolidin-1-yl)ethyl]isoxazole-4-carboxamide;

35 3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-N-[4-(diethylamino)phenyl]-5-[2-(3,3-dimethyl-2-

oxopyrrolidin-1-yl)ethyl]isoxazole-4-carboxamide;

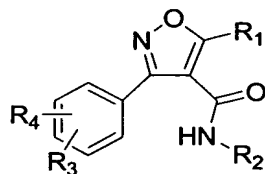
3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-N-[4-(diethylamino)-2-methylphenyl]-5-[2-(1,3-dioxan-2-yl)ethyl]isoxazole-4-carboxamide;

3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-N-[4-(diethylamino)phenyl]-5-[2-(1,3-dioxolan-2-yl)ethyl]isoxazole-4-carboxamide;

3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-N-[4-(diethylamino)phenyl]-5-(2-tetrahydrofuran-2-ylethyl)isoxazole-4-carboxamide; and

3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-N-[4-(diethylamino)phenyl]-5-[2-(2-oxopiperidin-1-yl)ethyl]isoxazole-4-carboxamide.

5. A compound according to formula (Ib),



(Ib),

or a therapeutically suitable salt or prodrug thereof, wherein

R₁ is a member selected from the group consisting of alkoxyalkyl, alkyl, alkylC(O)NHalkyl, alkylS(O)₂NHalkyl, alkenyl, hydroxyalkyl, R_aR_bN-, R_aR_bNalkyl and R_aR_bNcarboxyalkyl;

R₂ is a member selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkenyl, cycloalkenylalkyl, heterocycle and heterocyclealkyl;

R₃ and R₄ are each members independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, aryl, halogen, haloalkyl, cycloalkyl, cyano and nitro;

R_a and R_b are each members independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkoxyalkyl, alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylsulfonyl, aryloxyalkyl and R_cR_dNcarboxyalkylcarbonyl; and

R_c and R_d are each members independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, and alkyl.

6. The compound according to claim 5, wherein

R₂ is a member selected from the group consisting of aryl, arylalkyl and cycloalkyl; and

R₃ and R₄ are each members independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, halogen and nitro.

7. The compound according to claim 6 that is selected from the group consisting of
3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-N-[4-(diethylamino)phenyl]-5-methylisoxazole-4-

carboxamide;

5 3-(2-chloro-6-fluorophenyl)-N-[4-(diethylamino)phenyl]-5-methylisoxazole-4-
carboxamide;

5-but-3-enyl-3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-N-[4-(diethylamino)phenyl]isoxazole-4-
carboxamide;

10 3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-N-[4-(diethylamino)phenyl]-5-(3,4-dihydroxybutyl)isoxazole-
4-carboxamide;

3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-N-[4-(diethylamino)phenyl]-5-ethylisoxazole-4-carboxamide;
3-(2-chloro-6-nitrophenyl)-N-[4-(diethylamino)phenyl]-5-methylisoxazole-4-
carboxamide;

15 3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-N-[4-(diethylamino)phenyl]-5-(4-hydroxybutyl)isoxazole-4-
carboxamide;

3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-N-[4-(diethylamino)-2-methylphenyl]-5-methylisoxazole-4-
carboxamide;

N-[4-(diethylamino)phenyl]-5-methyl-3-(2-nitrophenyl)isoxazole-4-carboxamide;

20 3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-N-{4-[ethyl(isopropyl)amino]phenyl}-5-methylisoxazole-4-
carboxamide;

5-(4-aminobutyl)-3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-N-[4-(diethylamino)phenyl]isoxazole-4-
carboxamide;

3-(2-bromophenyl)-N-[4-(diethylamino)phenyl]-5-methylisoxazole-4-carboxamide;

25 3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-N-[4-(diethylamino)phenyl]-5-propylisoxazole-4-
carboxamide;

3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-N-[4-(diethylamino)phenyl]-5-isopropylisoxazole-4-
carboxamide;

3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-N-[4-(diethylamino)-2-methoxyphenyl]-5-methylisoxazole-4-
carboxamide;

30 N-{4-[tert-butyl(ethyl)amino]phenyl}-3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-5-methylisoxazole-4-
carboxamide;

3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-N-[4-(diethylamino)-2-hydroxyphenyl]-5-methylisoxazole-4-
carboxamide;

N-{4-[(2-chloroethyl)(ethyl)amino]phenyl}-3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-5-methylisoxazole-4-carboxamide;

3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-N-{4-[ethyl(propyl)amino]phenyl}-5-methylisoxazole-4-carboxamide;

5 N-{4-[butyl(ethyl)amino]phenyl}-3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-5-methylisoxazole-4-carboxamide;

3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-N-[4-(diethylamino)-2-methylphenyl]-5-propylisoxazole-4-carboxamide;

10 3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-N-[4-(diethylamino)-2-(piperidin-1-ylcarbonyl)phenyl]-5-methylisoxazole-4-carboxamide;

3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-N-[4-(diethylamino)-2-ethylphenyl]-5-methylisoxazole-4-carboxamide;

3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-N-[4-(diethylamino)phenyl]-5-[3-(dimethylamino)-3-oxopropyl]isoxazole-4-carboxamide;

15 5-[4-(acetylamino)butyl]-3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-N-[4-(diethylamino)phenyl]isoxazole-4-carboxamide;

3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-N-[4-(diethylamino)phenyl]-5-{4-[(methylsulfonyl)amino]butyl}isoxazole-4-carboxamide;

20 3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-N-[4-(diethylamino)phenyl]-5-(3-hydroxypropyl)isoxazole-4-carboxamide;

5-butyl-3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-N-[4-(diethylamino)phenyl]isoxazole-4-carboxamide;

N-(2-{[(1,3-benzodioxol-5-ylmethyl)amino]carbonyl}phenyl)-3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-5-methylisoxazole-4-carboxamide;

25 3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-N-[4-(diethylamino)phenyl]-5-[2-(dimethylamino)-2-oxoethyl]isoxazole-4-carboxamide;

3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-N-[4-(diethylamino)cyclohexyl]-5-methylisoxazole-4-carboxamide;

3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-N-[4-(diethylamino)phenyl]-5-(2-methoxyethyl)isoxazole-4-carboxamide;

30 3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-N-[2-(3,4-dihydroisoquinolin-2(1H)-ylcarbonyl)phenyl]-5-methylisoxazole-4-carboxamide;

3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-N-(2-{[(2,3-dihydro-1-benzofuran-5-ylmethyl)amino]carbonyl}phenyl)-5-methylisoxazole-4-carboxamide;

3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-N-{(1R)-1-[4-(diethylamino)phenyl]ethyl}-5-methylisoxazole-4-carboxamide;

5-{2-[acetyl(methyl)amino]ethyl}-3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-N-[4-(diethylamino)phenyl]isoxazole-4-carboxamide;

5 3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-N-(4-{2-[(3-ethoxypropyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-5-methylisoxazole-4-carboxamide;

 3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-N-(4-{2-[(3-isopropoxypropyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-5-methylisoxazole-4-carboxamide; and

10 3-(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-5-methyl-N-(4-{2-[(2-phenoxyethyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)isoxazole-4-carboxamide.

8. A method of treating disorders regulated by ghrelin including anorexia, cancer cachexia, eating disorders, age-related decline in body composition, weight gain, obesity, and diabetes mellitus.

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9. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of the present invention in combination with a pharmaceutically suitable carrier.